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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Friday - 4 December 1970

Page 2

4. [] Met with Mr. Ralph Preston, House Appropriations Committee staff, who gave me a copy of the Defense Appropriations bill reported yesterday by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Mr. Preston told me that he has discussed the Senate amendments restricting the use of funds in Southeast Asia with the Chairman. Mr. Preston does not know when to expect determination by the Chairman whether he will recommend that the House accept the Senate amendments or reject them and go to conference on the bill.

I briefed Mr. Preston on []

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5. [] Met with Mr. Frank Slatinshek, Acting Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee. I brought him up to date on the Senate handling of the Agency retirement bill.

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I briefed Mr. Slatinshek on []

6. [] Richard Perle, on the staff of Senator Jackson's Subcommittee on National Security and International Operations, called to ask if we had any details on possible plans to reopen the Suez Canal, which had been referred to in recent press stories. After checking with [] OCI, I called Perle back and briefly explained the facts as we understood them.

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